Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /077 W

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P R 101535Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4794
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 1469

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, MO
SUBJ: VISIT OF MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER TO MOSCOW AND
FOREIGN MINISTER TO WASHINGTON-PRESS PLAY

- 1. SUMMARY. MISSION OF PRIME MINISTER OSMAN TO MOSCOW GIVEN HEAVY COVERAGE IN MOROCCAN MEDIA, WITH LENGTHY SAME-DAY COVERAGE OF MOSCOW ARRIVAL DOMINATING TV NEWS MARCH 9. DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA FOR WASHINGTON REPORTED IN ONE SENTENCE ITEM BY NATIONAL WIRE SERVICE MAP. END SUMMARY.
- 2. ARRIVAL OF P.M. AHMED OSMAN IN MOSCOW DOMINATED LOCAL PRESS. PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPERS FOR MOST PART RELY ON LENGTHY REPORTS FROM THEIR CORRESPONDENTS ACCOMPANYING PARTY, EMPHASIZE THAT COMMERICAL DEALS DUE TO BE SIGNED ARE CHARACETRIZED BY "MUTUAL INTEREST" WITHOUT OVERTONES OF COLONIALISM OR DOMINATION. TWENTY MINUTE TELEVISED REPORT MARCH 9 GAVE AMPLE COVERAGE TO KOSYGIN'S RECEPTION AT MOSCOW AIRPORT. COMMUNIST AL BAYANE GAVE OSMAN MISSION FAR LESS SPACE THAN DID PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS, GIVING SECOND UNCLASSIFIED

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PLACE POSITION ON FRONT PAGE BEHIND ARTICLE ON ITALIAN POLITICAL EVENTS. USFP'S (SOCIALIST) MUHARRIR RELEGATED NEWS TO BOTTOM OF PAGE ONE WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT HEADLINE.

3. DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA TO U.S. WAS CARRIED IN ONE-LINE MAP ITEM WHICH REPORTED HE WAS CARRYING "PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM KING HASSAN TO PRESIDENT CARTER." ONLY INFORMATION

MINISTRY'S AL ANBA AND ISTIQLAL (OF WHICH BOUCETTA IS SECRETARY GENERAL) PAPERS L'OPINION AND AL ALAM CARRY IT AS PAGE ONE ITEM - L'OPINION IN LARGER TYPE THAT OSMAN HEAD; PRO-GOVERNMENT AL MAGHREB AND AL MITHAQ RELEGATE TO INSIDE PAGES, WHILE PRO-GOVERNMENT LE MATIN AND SOCIALIST MUHARRIR IGNORED IT ALTOGETHER (VERY POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF EARLIER DEADLINES). RADIO AND TV CARRIED ONE-SENTENCE MAP ANNOUNCEMENT MARCH 8 - ON TV, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ELABORATE COVERAGE OF OSMAN MOSCOW ARRIVAL.

4. ISTIQLAL'S L'OPINION GIVES PROMINENT BACK-PAGE PLAY TO AFP QUOTING CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI THAT U.S. TURNED DOWN OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF FOREIGN ARMS REQUESTS FROM OVER SIXTY COUNTRIES IN FY'77.MOFFAT

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, MO, UR, (OSMAN, AHMED)

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